

## Believer •A Stranger Things Story• by 12\_Fandomis\_Life\_05

**Category:** Stranger Things (TV 2016)

**Genre:** Angst, F/M, First Time, Fluff and Smut, Jim Hopper is a protective father, safe sex

**Language:** English

**Characters:** Barbara "Barb" Holland, Billy Hargrove, Bob Newby, Carol Perkins, D'Artagnan "Dart" (Stranger Things), Dustin Henderson, Eleven | Jane Hopper, Jim "Chief" Hopper, Jonathan Byers, Joyce Byers, Maxine "Max" Mayfield, Mike Wheeler, Nancy Wheeler, Sam Owens (Stranger Things), Steve Harrington, Tommy Hagan, Will Byers

**Relationships:** Jonathan Byers/Original Female Character(s), Steve Harrington/Original Female Character(s)

**Status:** In-Progress

**Published:** 2021-03-06

**Updated:** 2021-04-16

**Packaged:** 2022-04-01 01:29:11

**Rating:** Not Rated

**Warnings:** Creator Chose Not To Use Archive Warnings

**Chapters:** 8

**Words:** 18,644

**Publisher:** archiveofourown.org

## **1. Not the First Chapter.**

What will happen if Rachel Hopper, Jim Hopper's oldest daughter gets invested by the disappearance of Will Byers and helps his brother Jonathan with trying to find him?

Find out in this story.

I don't own all of the character, only my original character.

Enjoy!!

## 2. Chapter 1: Early Birthday Surprise

"Dad. Wake the fuck up. You have to go to work." Rachel Hopper yelled from the kitchen. "Jesus Christ, Rach. Let me sleep, I had a rough night." Jim, her father, groaned. "No, I am not going to let you sleep. Flo already called 9 fucking times." Rachel replied. Rachel was making scrambled eggs for her and her father, when the phone rang. "Make that 10 times." Rachel spoke before she picked up. "Hopper residence. Rachel speaking." Rachel answered. "Your father still hasn't woken up?" Flo asked. "No, but I got him to answer this time. I am really trying my best." Rachel spoke. "Okay. I guess I will just have to wait until he gets here. Can you tell him that Joyce is here? It is something to do with her son, Will." "I will tell him." Rachel replied before she hung up. "Dad, wake your ass up." Rachel yelled as she turned her attention towards the eggs again and heard footsteps coming towards her. "I'm up. Against my will though." Jim groaned.

"Flo said to tell you that Joyce Byers is at the office. Something to do with Will Byers." Rachel told her father. "Alright. Do you want me to drop you off at school?" Jim asked. "If you don't mind. I am going to get ready. Eggs are on the stove." Rachel spoke as she walked towards her room and opened her closet. She pulled out plaid trousers and a yellow shirt. She took off her pajamas and got dressed into the outfit. She did her hair in a bun and applied little makeup before adding a belt to her trousers and pulled on her shoes. "Are you ready to leave?" Jim asked. "Yeah, let me grab my bag and I am ready." Rachel replied as she grabbed her bag and walked out of her room. Rachel walked into the kitchen and grabbed her lunch from the fridge before she followed her father out of the trailer and towards his car. "I am sorry that I haven't really been asking how you are doing." Jim spoke as he started his truck.

"Don't worry about it. I have been a good girl, for most of the time." Rachel replied. "Still. How have you been holding up?" Jim asked as he drove towards Hawkins High School. "I have been holding up alright. Nothing crazy happened. Had been thinking a lot about Sarah and mom." Rachel replied. "I think it has been getting to me that Sarah passed and that mom moved on." Rachel added. "You can always come to me to talk about anything, you know that right." Jim

replied as he looked at his daughter. "I know, dad. I know. Well, will I see you tonight?" Rachel asked as Jim stopped the car. "I don't know. I will do my best to arrive on time." Jim replied as Rachel got out of the car. "Love you, dad." "Love you, kid." Jim replied as Rachel walked towards the school. Rachel walked into the hallway and saw Barbara and Nancy standing by Nancy's locker. "Hey girls. What's up?" Rachel asked as she walked up to her friends.

"Not much. Nance just told me that she had a late night study session with Steve Harrington." Barb spoke as she looked at Rachel and then back to Nancy. "Will you stop? We just studied." Nancy spoke as she blushed. "Babes, you are blushing. So. Was he good?" Rachel asked, with a grin on her face. "Shut up." Nancy laughed and slammed her locker shut. "She got it bad." Rachel said towards Barb. "She got it real bad for Steve Harrington." Barb replied. "Rach, what are we going to do for your birthday tomorrow?" Nancy asked as she turned to look at her. "I don't know. Dad told me last week that he had to work all day." Rachel replied. "I can ask my mother if you could join us for dinner." Nancy suggested. "That would be alright." Rachel smiled. "Hey, Nance. Can I talk to you?" Steve yelled from across the hall. Nancy walked towards Steve, leaving Barbara and Rachel alone.

"Are you still up to go out this friday?" Barb asked as she and Rachel walked towards their first class. "Yeah. Of course, I am." Rachel smiled. "Good, cause it is for your birthday." Barb smiled. Before the class started, Barb and Rachel were waiting outside of the classroom and waited for Nancy. "Where is she? She normally is never late for class." Barbara commented. "I think she and Steve are making out." Rachel replied. When the bell rang, Barbara and Rachel went into the classroom, when Nancy ran towards the class. "Where were you?" Rachel asked as Nancy sat down beside her. "The bathroom." Nancy replied. "With Steve?" Rachel teased. "Oh, shut up. I wanted to ask you this before. Do you want to come home with me after school?" Nancy asked. "Yeah sure. But can your mother or father drop me off at home? I promised dad to cook dinner." Rachel replied. "Of course, they can." Nancy smiled. The day went by quickly. Rachel and Nancy were making their way out of school and walked towards Nancy's house. "Be honest. Do you really love Steve?" Rachel asked as they walked in the street of Nancy's house. "I do. He has been treating me well." Nancy smiled. "But?" Rachel added as she could see some

hesitation. "But, he is kind of ruckless person. He doesn't really care about his education. Always wants to party." Nancy replied as they walked up the front porch. "Well, maybe you should talk to him about it. You can't do anything wrong with that."

Rachel smiled as she followed Nancy in the house. "Yeah, maybe you are right." Nancy smiled as she placed her stuff down by the door and walked towards the kitchen. "Mom. Is it alright if Rachel stays here for dinner tomorrow night? It's her birthday and Chief Hopper has the work all day." Nancy spoke as she looked at her mother. "Of course, it is alright. You are free to stay here." Karen smiled as she looked at Rachel. "Thank you mrs. Wheeler." Rachel smiled. "And do you mind dropping her off at home? In about an hour?" Nancy asked. "Of course. I will drop you off." Karen smiled. Nancy and Rachel walked up to Nancy's room and sat down on her bed. "So tell me. Have you been having your eye on someone?" Nancy asked. "No, not really. All the boys are either already in a relationship or not mature enough." Rachel replied. "Someone will come on your path. I know someone is out there that is the right guy for you. Just give it some time." Nancy smiled.

"I know." Rachel smiled. "How's Mike doing?" Rachel asked. "I don't know. Good, I guess." Nancy replied. The girls talked for about an hour, when it was time for Rachel to leave. Nancy and Rachel walked down the stairs, where Karen was waiting for Rachel, while holding Holly. "You're ready to leave, dear?" Karen asked as she looked at Rachel, who was grabbing her bag. "Yes. I am ready. Bye Nance. See you tomorrow at school." Rachel smiled as she hugged her best friend, before following Karen out towards the car. Rachel sat down in the passenger seat and waited for Karen to get in the car. Once she was in the car and started the engine, Karen decided to have a little chat. "So, how have you been doing?" Karen asked. "I've been alright. It has been quite hard with the passing of Sarah and that mom and dad divorced. I think everything just hit me last month. I am sure Nancy told you that I hadn't been at school for a couple of weeks because of it?"

Rachel replied. "Yes, she has told me something about it. I hope everything is better now?" Karen asked, with a slight concern in her voice. "Yes. Everything is better now. Nancy and Barb had been there

for me through it all." Rachel smiled. "How are you doing, Holly?" Rachel asked as she turned to look at the young girl. "Good." Holly replied with a big smile on her face. "You've been playing a lot with your toys?" "Yes with dolly." Holly replied. "Mostly with your dolly? Wow. And what is your dolly's name?" "Amy." Holly smiled. "Oh, what a beautiful name." Rachel smiled. "How's Mike?" Rachel asked as she turned to look at Karen. "He's doing alright. He and his friends had been playing D&D for ten hours yesterday." Karen replied. "Wow. Ten hours? That's a record for them." Rachel smiled. Not long after the conversation died down, Karen pulled up to Hopper's trailer. "Thank you for dropping me off, mrs. Wheeler." Rachel smiled.

"You are welcome, dear. Say bye to Rachel, Holly." "Bye, Rachel." Holly smiled and waved towards Rachel, who waved back. "Bye. I will see you tomorrow." Karen smiled as Rachel closed the car door and Karen drove off. Rachel grabbed her key and walked to the front door. She opened it and dropped her bag, by the front door, while closing the door behind her. Rachel took off her shoes, before she walked towards the kitchen. She opened the fridge and saw that there were some tortilla's in the fridge and decided to make quesadillas for her and her dad. It was getting late. Rachel already ate her dinner and was currently sitting on the couch, watching some television, when a car pulled up to the house. Jim walled through the door, with a sigh. "Hey kid. How was school?" Jim asked as he saw Rachel on the couch. "Good. How was work?" Rachel asked as she followed her father to the kitchen and started to heat up the food. "Busy as usual." Jim replied as he sat down at the table. "What are you going to do for your birthday?" Jim asked, with some guilt in his voice. "I am going to have dinner at the Wheelers." Rachel smiled as she took the plate out of the microwave. "That's good. I am so sorry that I have to work on your birthday. It's not everyday that my little girl turns 17." Jim spoke. "Don't feel bad. We have thursday off of school, and you don't have to work so you can make it up on thursday." Rachel smiled as she sat down in front of Jim. "Sure. I will make it up to you then." Jim replied as he started to eat.

Rachel and Jim talked, while Jim ate. The phone rang and Rachel walked over. "Hopper Residence. Rachel speaking." "Hey Rache. I have a question. Would you mind dropping some flyers of Will off downtown?" Jonathan Byers asked over the phone. "Yeah. I will do

that for you." Rachel replied. "Is everything okay?" Rachel asked. "Will's missing. So will you help before school?" Jonathan asked. "Of course. See you tomorrow." Rachel replied and hung up. "Who was it?" Jim asked as he took a sip from his beer. "It was Jonathan. He wants me to help give out flyers, cause Will's missing." Rachel replied. "Oh, alright. By the way. I got something for you. Something just got dropped off when I got here. Go and take a look outside." Jim said with a smirk on his face. Rachel walked outside and saw a dark blue Ford Galaxie beside her father's truck. "You got me a car?!" Rachel asked excitedly.

"Yes. It's from your mother and I. You had your license for 3 years and you haven't been driving that much. So we thought it was a good idea." Jim spoke as he stood by the door. "Thank you dad." Rachel smiled as she walked over and hugged her father. "You're welcome kid. Be sure to give your mother a call to thank her." Jim spoke as they walked into the trailer again. Rachel walked towards the phone and dialed her mother's number. "Hello. Diane speaking." "Mom, it's Rachel." Rachel spoke. "Oh, hey baby. How are you?" Diane asked. "I am good. Hey thank you for the car." Rachel smiled. "You are welcome dear. How's your father?" "Dad's good. We are going to celebrate my birthday on thursday, so that's fun." Rachel spoke. "But your birthday is tomorrow." "I know, but dad has to work late. Don't worry though, I'm going to eat dinner at the Wheelers." "That's good baby. I have to go. I love you and Happy Birthday."

Diane spoke before hanging up. "What did your mother say?" Jim asked. "She asked how you were doing. And already said happy birthday." Rachel smiled. "I am going to my room. I have to study for a test tomorrow." Rachel spoke as she grabbed her bag and walked to her room. She sat down at the desk and pulled out her history book and her notebook and started to study.

### 3. Chapter 2: A Little Help from A friend.

Rachel fell asleep with her head in her books and woke up by loud knocking on her door. Rachel shot up and walked towards the front door. "Jonathan? What are you doing here so early?" Rachel asked as she opened the door. "I-i can't take it anymore. I just had to get out of the house. The earlier we start, the earlier we are finished." Jonathan spoke. "Can I get changed first? I fell asleep in this?" Rachel asked. "Yeah, sure." Jonathan nervously replied. "Come in. You can sit and wait in here."

Rachel spoke as she opened the door further and Jonathan walked inside. Since it was supposed to be quite warm today, Rachel decided to go for a short sleeved top and her short black dress and got changed. "Oh, happy, uh, birthday." Jonathan spoke from the living room. "Thank you, Jonathan." Rachel smiled as she walked out of her room and did her hair in a loose ponytail. "Shall we go?" Rachel asked as she grabbed her bag and followed Jonathan out of the house. "How have you been holding up?" Rachel asked as she sat down besides Jonathan.

"I can be better. It's just really hard to see mom like this. She never has been so scared." Jonathan replied as he drove to the mainstreet. Once they arrived, Jonathan parked the car and got out. Rachel got out of the car as well and looked around. "Where do we start?" Rachel asked as she looked at Jonathan. "I'll go across the street and you stay on this side. Would you mind going into Hawkins Post? See if they can do anything?" Jonathan asked and Rachel smiled. "Of course. I know what Will looks like, so." Rachel smiled. "Thanks, Rach. You are the best." Jonathan replied as he gave Rachel some flyers and crossed the street. Rachel went in and out the stores and gave the clerks some flyers. After a while, Rachel stood at the Hawkins Post office and took a deep breath before walking in and standing at the front desk. "Hello? How can I help you?" A lady asked as she walked up to the front desk.

"I have a weird question. My friend's brother is missing and I was wondering if you guys could put something in your paper?" Rachel asked. "Let me get the editor." The lady smiled and walked away, before returning with a man. "Hello. How can I help you?" The man



asked as he stood in front of Rachel. "My friend's brother is missing and I was wondering if you could put something in the newspaper?" Rachel asked. "Is it about Lonnie's kid?" The man asked. "Uhm, yes. Will Byers." Rachel smiled. "Come on further." The man spoke as he opened the door and let Rachel walk in. "Thank you, sir." Rachel smiled. "Follow me." The man spoke and walked towards a desk, with a blond man sitting behind it. "Would you be so kind to help this girl?" The man asked. "Yeah, sure, boss" The blonde man replied. "Take a seat." The man spoke before walking away. "How can I help you, doll?" The other man asked as he looked at Rachel.

"Well, you see. Will Byers, Lonnie's kid, is missing. Could you maybe put a missing person article in the newspaper?" Rachel asked, shyly. "Oh, man, Lonnie's kid? Sure, I will help you." He replied. "Can you give me a description of Will?" The man asked as he grabbed a notepad and a pen. "His name's Will Byers. He's 12 years old, about 4'9" tall. He has brown hair and brown eyes and he weighs 73 lbs." Rachel started. "Alright. And what was he wearing when he was last seen?" He asked as he looked up at Rachel. "He wore jeans, blue plaid shirt, a white t-shirt underneath, a red down vest with a tan stripe. He was carrying a black canvas day bag." Rachel explained. "If someone has any information or has seen him, what number do we have to put?" The man asked. "555-0141, and ask for Joyce Byers." Rachel replied. "Okay, we will put it in tomorrow's edition. Have a nice day." He said as Rachel stood up. He held out his hand and Rachel shook it.

"Thank you so much." Rachel smiled. "You're welcome. I'll show you out." The man spoke as he walked from behind his desk and towards the front desk. "I hope you find him soon. And if there is anything we can do." "I'll come back." Rachel smiled as she walked out the door and out of the building, feeling the man's stare on her back. Rachel walked back to Jonathan's car and saw him already standing beside it. "How did it go?" Jonathan asked as he looked at Rachel. "They are going to put it in tomorrow's edition." Rachel replied. "Let's go to school." Jonathan spoke as they got into the car and he drove off towards the school. Jonathan parked the car in the school parking lot and Rachel got out. "Thank you for coming with me. I don't know what I would do without you." Jonathan smiled as they walked into the hall. "It's not a problem." Rachel smiled. "Rach, where have you

been?" Nancy asked as Rachel walked up to her and Barbara.

"Jonathan asked me to help him hand out flyers." Rachel replied. "Hey, listen. I can't have you over tonight. My mom gave me and Mike house arrest." Nancy spoke. Rachel's heart sank down to her feet and looked down at the floor. "Oh. I guess I have to spend my birthday on my own then." Rachel spoke and she felt tears forming in her eyes. "I am really really sorry." Nancy spoke as she tried to pull Rachel in for a hug, but Rachel stepped back. "I need to be alone for a moment."

Rachel spoke and turned on her heel, walking out of the hall and went towards the bathroom, where she let her tears roll down her cheeks. "Rach? Are you in here?" Nancy spoke as she walked into the bathroom. "Leave me alone, Nance." Rachel sobbed. "Come on, please talk to me." Nancy spoke. Rachel got up from the toilet she was sitting on and opened the door, looking at Nancy with tears still running down her face. "Everyone seems to leave me alone for my birthday. First dad that has to work, now you. I know that you can't help that your mom gave you house arrest, but I was actually looking forward to spending my birthday with my best friend." Rachel spoke as she walked out of the stall and looked at Nancy. "I am really sorry." Nancy softly spoke as she looked at Rachel. "I know you are. Can we spend time on Friday?" Rachel asked. "Of course we can." Nancy smiled. "On a little lighter note, Barb and I got you a present."

Nancy smiled as she pulled a gift from out of her bag. "Oh, thank you." Rachel smiled as she wiped away her tears and took the gift from Nancy. Rachel took the wrapping paper off the gift and looked at Nancy. "That's the one you wanted, right?" Nancy smiled. "Yes. Thank you." Rachel smiled as she pulled Nancy in for a hug. "You are welcome. Let's go back to Barb." Nancy smiled as she wrapped her arm around Rachel as they made their way out of the bathroom. Nancy and Rachel walked up to Barbara, who was awkwardly standing by Nancy's locker, since Steve, Tommy and Carol stood there as well. "Hey, there's the birthday girl." Steve spoke as he looked at Rachel. "Here ya go. A gift from me." Steve spoke as he gave Rachel a gift. "Thanks, Steve." Rachel smiled and took the gift from his hand. "You're welcome." Steve replied. Rachel opened it and it was some photo paper to go in her camera. "Thank you, Steve." Rachel smiled.

"You are welcome." They spent the time before class talking and when the bell rang, Nancy, Barb and Rachel walked towards the classroom. "So, what are you going to do instead?" Barb asked. "I think I will go downtown and eat something at a restaurant." Rachel replied. "Alone?" Nancy asked. "I know, but I don't really want to sit around at home all by myself." Rachel replied. "I understand." Barb smiled. As the day went by, Nancy, Rachel and Barbara were walking towards Rachel's trailer, since she was going to get changed for her lonely birthday evening. Rachel, Nancy and Barbara walked into the trailer and walked towards Rachel's room. "What should I wear on my lonely birthday dinner?" Rachel asked as she opened her closet. Rachel looked through her clothes and pulled out a black dress and a red dress. "Go for the red one." Nancy spoke. "Okay, and what shoes?"

Rachel asked as she pulled her converse out of her closet as well as some black heels. "Go for the black heels." Barbara smiled. "Alright. Thanks for the help with my clothes. How should I do my hair?" Rachel asked. "I think you should leave it like that." Nancy replied. "Okay. Thanks for the help, girls. I really appreciate it." Rachel smiled as they walked into the living room. "Do you want something to drink?" Rachel asked as she looked at her friends. "Some water." They both replied. Rachel walked to the kitchen and grabbed two glasses of water for Nancy and Barbara. "Does she know that you are actually going to Steve's tonight?" Barbara whispered towards Nancy. "No, and I want to keep it that way." "Too late. Get the fuck out of my house." Rachel spoke as she looked at Nancy and Barbara. "Now. Both of you. Get the hell out." Rachel spoke. "Let me explain. Please." Nancy spoke as she stood up and looked at Rachel.

"No. Steve's apparently more importantly than I am." Rachel spoke and pushed Nancy out of the house. "I don't want to see you anymore, Nancy." Rachel added, before she closed the door and sunk down against it as she started to cry again. Rachel spent the rest of the time, crying at her front door. Why would Nancy do that to her? Rachel thought that she and Nancy were friends. Rachel got up and walked to her bedroom and started to change into the outfit she picked out. When she was ready she grabbed her small bag and some money and walked out of her bedroom. She grabbed the keys of her car and headed out the door, when she ran into Jonathan. "Jonathan?

What are you doing here?" Rachel asked. "I saw Nancy and Barbara leaving your place earlier and decided to come and check on you." "Thanks, Jonathan." Rachel smiled. "So where are you going?" Jonathan asked. "Uhm, I was going to grab dinner somewhere. Dad's not home, has to work late. I was going to eat dinner at Nancy's but she told me that she had house arrest but turns out that she was going to Steve's." Rachel replied. "Oh wow. That sucks. Uhm, if you want, we can go and get something to eat." Jonathan suggested. "Oh, sure. That would be nice." Rachel smiled. "Would you mind going past my house? I should change if I am going to have dinner with you." Jonathan smiled. "Oh that's fine. Let's go." Rachel smiled as they walked to his car and got in. They drove towards Jonathan's house and they got out. "You can wait in the living room." Jonathan smiled as they walked into the house. "Hello, mrs. Byers." Rachel smiled as she stood by the front door. "Hello, Rachel. I am sorry for uh, the mess." Joyce smiled as she looked at Rachel.

"It's not a problem, mrs. Byers." Rachel smiled. "Please, call me Joyce." Joyce smiled. Rachel sat down on the couch and looked at the pictures on the coffee table. "These are beautiful pictures of Will. Who took them?" Rachel asked as she looked at Joyce, who walked up to her. "Jonathan did." "They are really beautiful." Rachel smiled. "Thank you, Rach. Shall we go?" Jonathan asked as he walked in the living room, wearing a black button up and some dark blue jeans. Rachel looked at Jonathan and was a little shocked to see him dressed like that. "Uhm, yeah. I am." Rachel spoke and stood up. "Where are you going?" Joyce asked. "We are going to have dinner. It is Rachel's birthday." Jonathan replied. "Would you like to join us? It is good to get out of the house mrs- Joyce." Rachel added. "Oh, no. You two go. I am going to stay here." "Mom, we want you to come with us. Please." Jonathan spoke and looked at Rachel for help. "Yes, Joyce. I insist on it." Rachel smiled. "Alright. Let me get ready first. Cause I have been wearing this all day." Joyce smiled as she walked towards her bedroom. "You don't mind that mom is coming?" Jonathan asked. "No, I don't mind. I want her to have a good time in these moments, cause she is going to need it." Rachel replied. "Oh, I got you a little gift." Jonathan spoke and took a small gift from his pocket and gave it to Rachel. "Thank you." Rachel smiled as she opened the gift. She pulled a necklace from the little bag and smiled at Jonathan. "It's a necklace with Sarah's initial on it." Jonathan

smiled. It was a small necklace with a moon pendant on it and on the moon was an engraved S, for Sarah.

"Thank you, Jonathan. I love it." Rachel smiled and pulled Jonathan in for a hug. "It really means a lot." Rachel spoke as she pulled away. "No problem." Jonathan nervously replied. "Okay, I am ready to leave." Joyce smiled as she walked into the living room. Rachel, Jonathan and Joyce walked out of the house and walked towards Joyce's car, before getting in and driving towards a restaurant on Randolph Lane. Rachel, Jonathan and Joyce got out of the car and walked inside and walked towards a table, where they sat down and looked at the menu. "Hey, guys what can I get you?" Benny asked. "A cheeseburger, some fries and lemonade." Rachel smiled. "I'll have the same as Rachel." Jonathan replied. "For me just a regular burger. And some fries as well. And Cola." Joyce spoke as she looked up at Benny. "Coming right up." Benny said before walking away. "Why aren't you celebrating your birthday with Hop?" Joyce asked. "Dad has to work late. Normally I was going to go to Nancy's but she apparently is going to Steve's. So here we are." Rachel replied, feeling quite sad about that. "Well, indeed. We are going to make it as best as it can." Joyce forcingly smiled. Rachel knew that Joyce would rather be at home or be looking for Will, but this could be good for Joyce.

#### **4. Chapter 3: A little Crush and A Big Secret.**

“Say, Rachel. How is Hopper doing?” Benny asked as he brought their food to their table. “Dad’s fine. He’s busy working today.” Rachel replied. “So, is he going to come on our fishing trip this weekend?” Benny asked. “I don’t know. I think he is really busy. But I will ask about it.” Rachel replied. “How are you doing, Joyce? I heard about your so- Hey!” Benny yelled as he turned around and heard some noise in the kitchen. “What’s going on?” Rachel asked Jonathan. “I don’t know. I guess an animal or something.” Jonathan replied. They ate their food and talked. The door of the restaurant opened and Rachel looked up. “Hey, Callahan. Aren’t you supposed to be at work?” Rachel asked. “No, your dad told us to leave. He said that he was going to take the rest of the night off, because he wanted to celebrate your birthday.” Callahan replied, with a confused look on his face. “Dad’s home?” Rachel asked.

“Yeah, like I already said, he wanted to celebrate your birthday. I can drop you off if you want?” Callahan asked and Rachel looked at Jonathan and Joyce. “Oh, don’t worry about us. I will pay for your food. Go and celebrate with your dad.” Joyce smiled as Rachel got up. “Okay, thank you. I will see you around.” Rachel smiled towards Jonathan. Rachel followed Callahan out of the restaurant and walked to his car. “Thank you for dropping me off, Callahan.” Rachel spoke after a moment of silence. “Not a problem. You are probably surprised that he is home. I mean with everything going on about Joyce’s kid.” Callahan replied. “It’s good to see that she got out of the house.” Callahan added as he drove up to Hopper’s trailer. Callahan pulled up to Hopper’s trailer and Rachel got out of the car. “Thank you for dropping me off, Callahan.” Rachel spoke as she looked at him. “You are welcome. And happy birthday.”

Callahan replied as she closed the car door and walked towards the front door. Rachel opened the door and walked inside, to see her father at the dinner table. “Where were you?” Jim asked. “I figured that I was going to spend my birthday all alone. But then Jonathan came here for something, and then I went with him and his mother to Benny’s.” Rachel replied. “Weren’t you going to have dinner with the Wheeler’s?” Jim asked. “Nancy lied to me. She told me that her

mother grounded her, but actually she was going to spend the evening at Steve Harrington's house." Rachel replied, angrily. "I'm sorry, kid." Hopper said after a while. "It's not your fault. I know you have been busy at work. And now with Will." Rachel replied. The two of them were sitting in the living room, when the phone rang. "Jim Hopper speaking." Jim spoke and Rachel looked up. When Jim hung up, he looked at his daughter.

"Something happened to Benny. I have to go." Jim spoke. "I am sorry, kid. Go to bed, alright. Love you." "Love you too dad." Rachel replied as she got up and turned off the tv, before walking into her bedroom. Rachel changed into her pajamas and laid down on her bed. She thought back to what she said to Nancy and maybe she was overreacting. But still, Nancy lied to her. Maybe she should go and listen to what Nancy had to say in the morning. The whole night, Rachel kept tossing and turning in bed, thinking about what happened with Nancy. Rachel turned to her alarm clock on her nightstand and sighed. 3.30 am. Rachel got up and got out of her bed and went towards the living room. She sat down on the couch and turned on the tv. Her father hasn't gotten back from last night. Not long after, Rachel heard a car pull up to the trailer. "Hey, why are you still awake?" Jim asked as he walked into the trailer and saw his daughter sitting on the couch.

"After you left, I went to bed. But I couldn't sleep. Kept thinking about what happened with Nancy." Rachel replied. Jim sat down beside her and looked at her. "You care about Nancy. And she cares about you. I am sure that there has to be a good reason for why she lied to you. Talk it out. You two always have been so close, it would be a shame if this friendship ends because of a boy." Jim told his daughter. "I know. I will go around 10." Rachel replied. "What happened to Benny?" Rachel asked her father. "He's dead. It looks like a suicide, but he wouldn't do that. He got killed."

Jim replied. "Did you see anything suspicious when you were there?" Jim asked. "No. I haven't seen anything. But he was talking to me about you and then he screamed at something in the kitchen. An animal or something, I guess." Rachel replied. When it was 8.30, Rachel walked into her bedroom and opened her closet. She pulled out her jeans, a black top and a flannel and also some fresh

underwear and bra. She grabbed all of the stuff and walked towards the bathroom to shower. She got out of her pajamas and got into the shower. When she was finished with washing her hair and body, Rachel got out and wrapped a towel around herself. Rachel dried her hair with the blow dryer and looked at herself in the mirror. "You look like shit." Rachel said to herself. Once her hair was dry, she dried the rest of her body and took the towel off of her and got changed. Once she was ready, Rachel walked out of the bathroom.

She walked towards her bedroom and grabbed her converse and walked into the kitchen and started to make breakfast for her and her dad, even though Jim went to sleep. Rachel made some eggos for herself and once they were done, she went to sit at the kitchen table to eat her breakfast. Rachel started to think about what she was going to say to Nancy. She still was mad at her for what she did. It was getting closer to 10, Rachel had spent most of that time thinking. She got up from where she was sitting, grabbed the keys to her car and walked out of the door. Rachel got into her car and placed the key in the contact. "Okay, Rach. You can do this, just relax." She said to herself. Rachel started her engine and drove towards the Wheeler's house. She felt herself panic a little when she pulled up to the house, but got a grip of herself. Rachel got out of her car and walked towards the front door and rang the bell.

The door opened and Mrs. Wheeler smiled at Rachel. "Hey, Rachel. Are you okay?" She asked. "Yes. Is Nancy here? I need to talk to her." Rachel explained. "She's in her room. She told me what happened yesterday." Mrs. Wheeler sympathetically smiled at Rachel as she walked past the woman and walked up the stairs. She walked up to the door of Nancy's room and waited for the door to open. "Hey, what are you doing here?" Nancy asked, guilty and confused. "I wanted to come and talk to you. About yesterday." Rachel replied. "Come in." Nancy said with a slight smile on her face. Rachel walked into the room and sat down on the bed and looked at Nancy. "I am sorry for canceling on you the last minute and lying to you. But Steve asked me to come right after class and he wouldn't take no for an answer." Nancy started. "He could see that I was really mad at him for making me cancel my plans with you." Nancy added.

"If he could see that you were angry at him, then why didn't he let



you spend my birthday with me?" Rachel asked. "Because, he really wanted to hang out with me. And I have a feeling that he doesn't like you." Nancy replied. "Well, to be honest, I am not fond of him either." Rachel spoke. "I know you aren't fond of him." Nancy smiled slightly. "I am so sorry for what I did." Nancy silently spoke. "I forgive you. If I can stay for lunch." Rachel smiled. "Of course, mom wouldn't mind." Nancy replied as she hugged Rachel and they walked out of her room. "So what did you do yesterday?" Nancy asked as they walked down the stairs. "I, uh, was about to go and have dinner by myself, but then Jonathan came by, and he offered to have dinner with me. We went by his house because he wanted to change and we convinced Joyce to come as well." "You had dinner with Jonathan?" Nancy asked, knowing about the crush Rachel has on her friend.

"Yes. But it was cut short because Callahan told me that dad went home." Rachel replied. "So what's the deal between you and Jonathan?" Nancy asked as they sat on the kitchen counter after getting some soda from the fridge. "I don't know. We're just friends, I guess." Rachel replied with a blush on her face. "Rach. I know that you like him, love him I mean, from the first day we started High School. Maybe even before that." Nancy smiled. "I just. I don't know how to tell him. I don't even know if he likes me back."

Rachel replied as she took a sip from her drink and looked at Nancy. "Well, I have seen the way he looks at you sometimes. I don't know for sure, but take him on a date." Nancy suggested. "Take him on a date?" Rachel asked confused. "Yes, take him out. There is nothing wrong with that." Nancy smiled. Rachel looked down at her hands and saw that they were shaking. "There is nothing to be nervous about. It will be okay. When you get home, just call him." Nancy smiled. "Nancy or Rachel, can you go down to the basement and ask Mike to come and have lunch?" Mrs. Wheeler asked as she walked towards the girls. "I'll go." Rachel spoke as she hopped off the counter and walked towards the basement door. "Mike?" Rachel asked as she walked down the stairs. "Rachel? What is it?" Mike asked as he walked up the stairs to stop her from seeing something. "What are you hiding?" Rachel asked as she looked suspiciously at Mike.

"Nothing." Mike quickly replied. "Boy, you can't hide things from me.

Whatever it is, I will not tell your parents or my dad.” Rachel spoke as she looked at Mike, who moved out the way and Rachel saw Dustin, Lucas and an unknown girl by the couch. “Who is that?” Rachel asked as she walked closer to Dustin and Lucas. “That’s Eleven. But we call her El.” Mike replied. “Hello, Eleven. I’m Rachel.” Rachel smiled as she looked at the girl. “Ra-chel.” Eleven replied. “Yes, Rachel. Don’t worry, I will not hurt you.” Rachel smiled. “Pretty.” Eleven spoke as she looked at Rachel. “Thank you, you are pretty too.” Rachel replied, with a smile on her face. “Where did you find her?” Rachel asked. “We found her on Mirkwood. She looked lost.” Dustin replied. “Where are you from, Eleven?” Rachel asked. “Lab.” Eleven replied. “Hawkins Lab?” Rachel asked and Eleven nodded. “Did they hurt you?” Rachel asked. Eleven hesitated for a moment, before nodding again.

“Bad men.” Eleven spoke softly. Rachel looked at Mike as he looked at the older girl. “We will take care of you. Don’t worry about it. I will protect you.” Rachel smiled. “Protect?” “Yes, it means that I will not let anything bad or anyone bad hurt you.” Rachel replied. “Protect. Promise?” Eleven asked. “I promise. Friends don’t lie.” Rachel smiled as she looked at Eleven and then at Mike. “Mike, can you go and get me and Eleven a sandwich? I will stay here to watch her.” Rachel asked. “Of course.” Mike replied and ran upstairs. “Why are you being nice?” Eleven asked as she looked at Rachel. “Because, I care about my friends. Even though Mike, Dustin and Lucas are younger than me, I often help them out with things. And because you kind of remind me of my little sister.” Rachel smiled. “Sister?” Eleven asked, confused. “A female sibling. My sister passed away from cancer.” Rachel spoke as she looked down at her hands again.

“Sorry.” Eleven spoke. “Don’t be. You didn’t know. Did they hurt you bad at the Lab?” Rachel asked, changing the subject. Eleven shook her head and looked at Rachel, as Mike came back down the stairs, with food for Eleven and Rachel. “Mike, is there something special about Eleven?” Rachel asked as she noticed how he looked at her. “She can do things with her mind.” Mike replied. “Like telekinesis?” Rachel asked and Mike nodded. Later in the afternoon, Rachel decided to go home, after she told Mike that she would swing by later or the next day. Rachel walked out of the house and walked towards her car, after saying goodbye to Nancy. She drove back to

the trailer and parked her car, only to see that her father's truck was gone. Rachel sighed and got out of her car, before walking in the trailer and saw a note lying on the coffee table.

*' I am so sorry, kid, but I got called in for work. I have left you some money on the dining table, so you can get something to eat. Love you, kid.'*

Rachel sighed and grabbed the money, before looking at the phone. She dialed the Byers' house and waited for someone to pick up. "Hello?" Joyce asked. "Hey, Joyce. Is uh, Jonathan there?" Rachel asked, nervously. "Yes, I will get him." Joyce replied. "Hey, Rach, what's wrong?" Jonathan asked as he answered the phone.

"Uh, I was, uh, wondering if you would like to go on a date with, uh, me?" Rachel asked, nervously. "Yeah, sure. Where do you want to go?" Jonathan asked. "The movies, maybe?" Rachel replied. "Sure. I will meet you there." Jonathan spoke. "Okay, I will see you later." Rachel replied as she hung up the phone. She smiled at herself and ran into her bedroom, to get changed. She picked out a black dress and got changed, before doing her hair. When she was ready, Rachel walked into the living room, when she heard the phone ring. Rachel walked over to the phone and picked up. "Hello?" Rachel asked. "Hello, I would like to talk to you about something. Is it possible if I could come over, right now? It is about a scholarship." A woman asked. "Uhm, yeah sure." Rachel replied, confused. "Okay, thank you, mrs Hopper." The woman replied before hanging up. Not long after the phone call, there was a knock on the door.

Confused, Rachel walked over and opened the door, only to see Mike, Dustin, Lucas and Eleven. "What are you doing here?" Rachel asked. "Danger. Bad men." "Eleven sensed that you are going to be in danger." Mike added. "Why?" Rachel asked confused. "Someone saw you coming out of my house, or something and Eleven checked on you. She said that you got a call from a woman." Mike replied. "What do I do?" Rachel asked. "We have to leave." Mike spoke as he heard a car. "Can I use your bike?" Rachel asked as she looked at Lucas, who nodded. "Get on." Rachel spoke as she got on the bike and Lucas got on behind her, and they drove off towards the forest and drove away from the trailer. Once they were out of sight, they looked back and saw that the bad men broke into her house. "What the hell? They

can't do that." Rachel spoke as she drove off. "Your father will be back and see it right?" Dustin asked.

"Yeah, but I don't know when he is going to be back." Rachel replied and saw her father's car driving up to the trailer, just as the other car drove off. "I can't go back now, I have a date with Jonathan." Rachel spoke as they drove towards the town. Once they were close to the movie theater, Rachel got off the bike and gave it back to Lucas. "Thank you for saving me." Rachel smiled. "You're welcome. We'll see you around." Mike smiled as the boys drove off. Rachel walked up to the theater and stood outside, waiting for Jonathan. "Hey." Jonathan spoke as he walked up to her. "Hi. Shall we go in?" Rachel smiled, nervously. "Yes." Jonathan replied. "Shoot, I forgot my bag." Rachel spoke as she looked for her bag and forgot that she didn't take it. Jonathan looked at her. "I'll pay for you." Jonathan told her as he bought two tickets. "Thank you. I will pay you back." Rachel smiled. "You don't have to. Uh, would you like some popcorn as well?"

Jonathan asked as they walked inside towards the candy store. "We can share one." Rachel replied. Once they bought the popcorn and drinks, they walked into the movie and sat down in the far back. "I have something to tell you." Rachel whispered halfway through the movie. "What is it?" Jonathan asked as he looked at her through the darkness. Rachel looked at the movie and then back at Jonathan. "I have feelings for you. For a long time and I didn't know how to tell you." Rachel whispered. "R-really?" Jonathan replied. "Yes. But I was scared to tell you, because I di-" Jonathan placed his hand on her cheek and pulled her closer to him, placing his lips on her. "I have had feelings for you ever since I saw you. I love you, Rachel." Jonathan whispered as he pulled away and looked at her. "I love you too, Jonathan." Rachel smiled as she placed her head on his shoulder and he wrapped an arm around her, before continuing to watch the movie.

## 5. Chapter 4: Protection

Once the movie was over, Rachel and Jonathan walked out of the theater. "Can you give me a lift home?" Rachel asked Jonathan. "Of course." Jonathan replied as they walked up to his car. Rachel looked around and saw a car parked behind Jonathan's on the opposite side of the road and Rachel raised an eyebrow, before getting inside the car and looked at Jonathan. "You aren't supposed to park over there, right?" Rachel asked as she looked out of the back window. "No, you aren't." Jonathan replied. "Someone broke into my house earlier. And someone called me to have a talk about a scholarship. But I never talked about a scholarship." Rachel spoke as Jonathan backed out of the parking spot and drove away. "Someone broke into your house? Does your father know about it?" Jonathan asked. "I don't know. I think so. I saw it when I left for our date." Rachel replied. "I am pretty sure that dad has to work again. Can I stay at your place?"

Rachel asked. "Uhm, sure. You can get my bed and I will sleep on the floor." Jonathan replied. "Thanks. But you can also sleep in the bed with me. No monkey business, just sleeping." Rachel replied as Jonathan raised an eyebrow. They drove up towards Jonathan's house and saw Hopper's truck. "What's going on?" Rachel asked Jonathan as he parked the car and walked up to the house. "Dad, what's going on?" Rachel asked as she looked at her father. "We found Will's body." Jim replied, softly and Rachel felt tears forming in her eyes as she looked at Jonathan and Joyce. Jim wrapped his arms around his daughter and hugged her as she cried. Rachel pulled away from her father and went to hug Jonathan as he broke down in her arms. "I'm so sorry." Rachel whispered. "Would you like me to stay with you?" Rachel asked as she looked at Jonathan with teary eyes. "Only if your father doesn't mind. I don't think I want to be alone."

Jonathan spoke. "Dad doesn't mind. He knows we are just good friends." Rachel replied. "I thought that after that kiss we would be more than friends." Jonathan said. "Dad doesn't have to know about us, just yet." Rachel replied as she grabbed his hand. She placed a light kiss on his hand, before she looked at her dad. "Uhm, is it okay if I stay here, with Jonathan? I don't want him to be alone right

now.” Rachel said as she looked at her father. “Uhm, sure kiddo. I want you home by 12, alright?” Jim asked as he walked to his car. “Alright, dad. I’ll see you tomorrow.” Rachel replied, before she walked to Jonathan. They walked into the house and Rachel looked at Joyce, who was sitting on the couch. “I’m so sorry, Joyce.” Rachel softly smiled. “I think we better leave mom alone.” Jonathan whispered as he grabbed her hand and they walked to his bedroom. “How are you holding up?” Rachel asked Jonathan as she sat on his bed.

“Uhm, it feels unreal. I-I just don’t know how to handle it.” Jonathan replied as he sat beside her. “Do you want me to go with you when you’re going to see the body?” Rachel asked. “If you want.” Jonathan replied. “Of course. I want to be there to support you.” Rachel replied. “Thank you.” Jonathan smiled, while tears fell down his face. “It’s not a problem.” Rachel smiled as she wrapped her arms around him, letting him cry in her arms. “Let’s sleep. It’s been a long day.” Rachel said. “Do you want a shirt to sleep in?” Jonathan asked. “Please.” Rachel smiled. Jonathan grabbed a spare shirt and gave it to Rachel, who got changed and laid down on Jonathan’s bed. “Can you hold me?” Jonathan asked as he laid down beside her and looked into her brown eyes. “Of course.” Rachel smiled as she wrapped her arms around Jonathan, holding him close to her, before they both fell asleep. Rachel woke up the following morning.

She looked around the room and saw that Jonathan was already awake. She got dressed into her dress and walked out of his room. “Morning.” Jonathan said as he looked at Rachel. “Morning. Did you get some sleep?” Rachel asked as she sat down at the kitchen table and looked up at Jonathan, who gave her some eggs and toast. “Not really. You?” Jonathan asked. “No. I kept thinking about what dad said.” Rachel replied. “I know, me too.” Jonathan said as he sat down beside her.

“Maybe you should go home. I think I want to be there for mom, when we go to see the body.” Jonathan said as he ate his breakfast. “Oh, uhm. Alright. Are you sure?” Rachel asked. “Yeah. Don’t worry, I’ll come by tomorrow.” Jonathan smiled. “Uhm, okay. I’ll see you tomorrow then.” Rachel said as she got up and walked out of his house. As the days passed, Rachel saw Jonathan less and less. She started to think that she was doing something wrong. Her father had

to work everyday, or at least that's what he told her. And Jonathan, well, he didn't really talk to her that much. Rachel walked into school and towards the photo room. She opened the door and saw Jonathan and Nancy, together. They turned to look at her and she looked shocked. "Rach. This is not what it looks like." Nancy started. "Leave it Nanc." Rachel angrily said as she stormed out of the room, and bumped into Steve. "Sorry." She said, before continuing to walk.

"Hey, Rache, wait up." Steve yelled after her, before he followed her out of the school. "What's up?" Steve asked as Rachel stopped by her car and looked at him. "I thought Jonathan was different than all the other guys. Guess He's not." Rachel simply said, before she got into her car and drove towards her house. She arrived at the house and parked her car, she walked in and saw her father, hesitantly looking for something. "What are you doing?" Rachel asked. Jim looked at her and placed his finger before his lips. Rachel rolled her eyes and walked out of the house, where she waited for her father. "What the hell were you doing?" Rachel asked as Jim walked out of the house. "They put this in the lamp." Jim replied as he showed her a little microphone. "What the hell? Who did that?" Rachel asked. "The lab." Jim replied. "I'm going to Mike. To tell him about it." Rachel said as she got into her car and drove to the Wheeler's house.

Rachel parked her car and ran up to the back door, when the kids walked out. "Where are you going?" Rachel asked. "They found out that El's staying here." Mike replied. "Get in the car." Rachel said as they ran up to the car and they all got in. "Strap yourselves in. It's going to be a fast drive." Rachel said as she stepped on the gas pedal and sped away from the house. "Where are we going?" Mike asked. "Joyce." Rachel replied. Rachel pulled up to the house and they all got out. "What are you doing here?" Hopper asked as they walked into the house. "Who's that?" Joyce asked as she looked at El. "She can find Will." Mike replied. Mike explained everything to Joyce and Jim, while Rachel was sitting on the couch, when Nancy and Jonathan walked in, sweaty. "What's going on?" Jonathan asked. "They are explaining things to Jocy and Dad." Rachel shortly replied. "Can we talk?" Nancy asked.

"What's there to say? You obviously like each other." Rachel replied. "What? No, we don't." Nancy replied as she looked at Jonathan and

then back at Rachel. "Don't lie to me." Rachel said. "I don't care. But I feel stupid to even give you a chance." Rachel said towards Jonathan. "The bath. I can find him there." El said as she walked into the room. "But that bath is too small. You need something bigger, right?" Rachel asked El, who nodded her head. "We need a bigger bath and a shit ton of salt. Where can we find that?" Dustin asked. "Do you still have that kiddie pool, mom?" Jonathan asked. "Yeah, in the shed." Joyce replied. "We can do it in the gym." Mike said as Jonathan walked out the house to get the pool. When he and Hopper found the pool, they placed it in his truck and they drove towards the school. "Joyce, I'll help you with El." Rachel said as she and El went to find something to make it dark.

"What's going on between you and Jonathan?" Joyce asked as she looked at Rachel. "I don't know. I guess we're not meant to be with each other." Rachel replied. After an hour, they were all sitting around the pool, while El was floating, looking for Will. She threw the glasses in the water, while screaming and clinging to Joyce and Rachel. "Shh, you did a good job." Rachel cooed as she helped El, out of the pool and held her close, while she was crying.

Rachel, Nancy and Jonathan got the task to stay with the kids, while Jim and Joyce went to find Will. "Rachel. I am sorry." Jonathan said as he looked at her. "It's okay, Jonathan. You could have just said that you actually liked Nancy." Rachel replied "I don't know if I like her. I'm sorry that I hurt your feelings." Jonathan replied. "It's okay." Rachel smiled. "I think we better break up, even though we've only been together for a couple of weeks." Rachel added. Jonathan didn't say anything to that. Rachel sat by El and Mike. An hour had passed and Rachel got up. "They left. Jonathan and Nancy left." Rachel said to Mike, as they stood outside. They could see cars driving towards the school. "We got to hide." Rachel said as she ran inside. Rachel lifted El in her arms and they ran out of the gym. "Do you think you can run, El?" Rachel asked as she placed El down. "Yes." El replied. "Stop." Some men yelled. Rachel turned around and looked at the men.

A man with grey hair walked between the men and looked at Rachel. "Give her to me." The man said to Rachel. "No. You'll have to kill me first." Rachel replied as she shielded El. "You don't know what she is capable of." The man said to Rachel. "I don't care." Rachel spat. El



shrieked and the men dropped to the floor. "Wow. Are they dead?" Rachel asked. "I think so." Dustin replied. Rachel and the kids ran, when Rachel felt something behind her. She turned and saw the demogorgon in front of her. She screamed, before El sacrificed herself to save Rachel, Mike, Dustin and Lucas. "El? El! El!" Mike screamed as he looked around for El. "Shh." Rachel hushed as she wrapped her arms around him and held him close. A couple of months had passed. She, Nancy and Jonathan talked it out and they were friends again. Rachel and her father had found El, wandering in the woods. They decided to go and live in the old house in the woods.

Rachel, El and Jim cleaned the whole house. "We're going to have some rules, El." Jim started as he was sitting at the table, while Rachel was in the kitchen, cooking. "Rule number one: Always keep the curtains shut. Rule number two: don't open the door unless you hear our secret knock." Jim explained and he knocked on the table. "Rule number three: Don't ever go outside alone, especially in the daylight." Jim said. "I'm going. I have to work. See you tonight." Rachel said as she grabbed her bag. "Work? Where?" Jim asked. "Didn't I tell you? I have a job at RadioShack. My boss is an old classmate of yours. Bob Newby." Rachel smiled. "I didn't know that you applied for a job." Jim replied. "Yeah, I thought that I might get a vacation job, just to get some extra money." Rachel replied. "That's good. I'll see you tonight." Jim said as Rachel got out of the house and walked through the woods to get to her car.

Once Rachel got into the car, she drove towards the store and parked her car in front of it. "Good morning, Rachel." Bob said as she walked into the store. "Morning, Mr Newby." Rachel replied. "Please, call me Bob. I may be your boss, but I want you to see me as a friend and a colleague." Bob replied as he smiled at Rachel. "Alright, Mr New-Bob." Rachel smiled as she put away her bag and started to do her job. "Rachel, I have a question." Bob asked as he walked up to Rachel. "Yeah? What is it? Am I not doing a good job? Did I do something wrong? Are you going to fire me?" Rachel asked as she started to panic and think about if she did something wrong. "What? I am not going to fire you. I said if I could ask you a question, not if I could talk to you. You're doing a fantastic job." Bob replied, trying to calm her down. "Oh, uhm yeah sure." Rachel awkwardly smiled. "How do I ask someone out?" Bob asked.

"Oh, well, you just walk up to the person and ask. Or if you're more of a romanticus, you can buy some flowers and give it to the person." Rachel replied. "Girls and women love flowers." Rachel added. "Okay. Thank you." Bob smiled. "Who are you asking out?" Rachel asked curiously. "Joyce." Bob smiled. "That's cute." Rachel smiled. "Alright, I'll go and have lunch. And ask her out." Bob smiled as he grabbed his coat. "Alright, good luck. And Bob?" Rachel said after him. "Yeah?" He asked as he opened the door. "Just be yourself. And don't be nervous." Rachel smiled. "Thanks, Rachel." Bob smiled, before he walked out the door. Rachel stood behind the desk, working, when she saw Nancy walk in. "Hey." Nancy smiled. "Hi. How are you?" Rachel asked. "Good. Tina's throwing a halloween party. Do you want to come?" Nancy asked. "Sure, but I don't have a costume." Rachel replied. "You can go as the girl from Grease. The blonde one." Nancy replied. "I am not wearing a preppy dress." Rachel replied. "No, the costume she wore when they were on the fair. The black outfit." Nancy replied. "Oh, sure, I'll go like that." Rachel smiled. "Where's your boss?" Nancy asked. "He's out for lunch. He asked me for advice to ask Mrs Byers out." Rachel smiled. "Really? Oh that's sweet." Nancy replied. They continued to talk, when Bob walked in. "How did it go?" Rachel asked. "We are going on a date this friday." Bob replied. "So, my advice worked?" Rachel asked. "Yes, it did. Thank you." Bob smiled at Rachel.

"You're welcome." Rachel smiled. "Go ahead and take the rest of the day off, it's really quiet today." Bob smiled. "Really, because I can help you?" Rachel replied. "No, take the rest of the day off. I'll see you on saturday." Bob smiled. "Thank you." Rachel smiled as she went to the back to get her stuff, before walking out of the store with Nancy. "Let's go and get your costume." Nancy smiled as they walked down the street, towards the costume store.

## 6. Chapter 5: Halloween, dating and Demodogs

“So, how are things between you and Steve?” Rachel asked as she and Nancy walked into the costume store. “We’re alright. What about Sandy from Grease?” Nancy asked as she looked at the costume and showed it to Rachel, ignoring the question. “Yeah, I’ll go for that.” Rachel smiled as she took the right size and walked to the cash desk, paid for the costume, before she and Nancy walked out of the store. They walked down the street towards her car, when Joyce walked out of her store. “Hey, Mrs Byers.” Rachel and Nancy said at the same time. “Hi, girls. How are you?” Joyce asked them. “We’re good.” Nancy smiled. “Rach, I think I have to thank you.” Joyce smiled. “For what, Mrs Byers?” Rachel asked. “For setting me up for this date with Bob Newby. He told me that you gave him some advice.” Joyce replied. “It’s not a problem.” Rachel smiled. “No, seriously. Thank you. Now, enjoy halloween.” Joyce smiled.

“It’s good to see her happy again.” Rachel said as she and Nancy walked towards Nancy’s house. “I know. They went through a lot. Seeing her with Mr Newby would be a good thing for her to forget about that.” Nancy replied. “You didn’t really reply to my question.” Rachel said as they walked into the house. “What question?” Nancy asked. “How are you and Steve doing?” Rachel asked. “We’re alright, I guess. I think he’s just jealous that I hang out with Jonathan more than with him.” Nancy replied. “Well, maybe you should hang out with him. Or go to the party with him.” Rachel said. “But I thought that we were going to the party?” Nancy asked. “Yeah, I know. But just dance with Steve. After all you and Steve are going as Lana and Joel from Risky Business.” Rachel replied. “Alright, if you don’t mind being on your own.” Nancy said as they walked up to her room. “No, I don’t mind.” Rachel replied. “I’m used to being on my own, so it’s fine.” Rachel replied.

“We’re still around. You won’t be on your own.” Nancy smiled as she helped Rachel get ready. After an hour or two, Rachel had left the Wheeler house and went back to the cabin, before she was going to go to the party. Rachel walked up to the cabin and knocked the secret knock. El opened the door and Rachel smiled. “Hey, El.” Rachel smiled as she walked in. “Where’s Hop?” El asked. “I don’t

know. But I think that he is going to come home soon.” Rachel replied. “When can I see Mike?” El asked Rachel. “I don’t know.” Rachel replied. “Where are you going?” El asked as she looked at Rachel. “I’m going to a party. But I’ll go and get some candy for you, so we can enjoy that together.” Rachel smiled. “Promise?” El asked. “I promise. I’m going.” Rachel smiled as she walked up to the girl and ruffled her hair. “Rach, pretty.” El smiled as she looked at Rachel’s costume. “Thank you, El. I’ll see you later.” Rachel smiled as she walked out of the house.

Since she promised El for candy, she decided to drive towards the Byers. Rachel pulled up to the house and saw Bob’s car outside. She got out of the car and smiled to herself, before walking up to the front door and knocked on it. “Trick or Treat.” Rachel smiled as Joyce opened the door. “Oh, look at you, you’re very beautiful.” Joyce smiled. “Aren’t you a little old to trick or treating?” Joyce added. “Well, I promised dad to take some candy home. So, here we are.” Rachel smiled. “Good evening, Sandy.” Bob said as he was wearing a dracula costume and had a fake accent. “Good evening, Dracula.” Rachel smiled. “Here you go, that should be enough candy for you and Hop.” Joyce said as she gave Rachel a big bag full of candy. “Geesh thanks, mrs Byers.” Rachel smiled. “How many times do I have to tell you that you can call me Joyce?” Joyce smiled. “Thanks Joyce.” Rachel corrected, before she walked towards her car.

She placed the candy on the floor of the passenger seat. Rachel drove towards the house, where the party was held and parked up on the driveway, before getting out and walking inside. She looked around for Steve and Nancy and found them standing by the kitchen. “Hey.” Rachel smiled as she looked at Nancy. “Hey, Rach. Here, take some punch, it’s really good.” Nancy said as she gave Rachel a cup of punch.

Since Rachel arrived close to 11pm, she noted that Nancy was slightly drunk. They danced together for a couple of songs, before Nancy and Steve got into a fight. Steve walked out of the house and Rachel followed. “Steve. Where’s Nancy?” Rachel asked as she followed the boy to his car. “Nancy is upstairs in the bathroom. She called our relationship bullshit.” Steve replied. “What? You know that she’s drunk.” Rachel said. “I know. But she is convinced that everything we had was bullshit. And I am pretty sure that I saw

Jonathan going up towards the bathroom when I walked out.” Steve replied. “I’m sorry.” Rachel said. “Don’t be. You can’t do anything about it. Our relationship wasn’t going to last anyway.” Steve spoke as he ran a hand through his hair. “Can I be honest?” Steve asked after a while. “Yeah.” Rachel replied. “I actually have a slight crush on you.” Steve said. “What? Really?” Rachel asked as she felt a blush creeping on her face.

“Yeah, you’re cute, hot, smart.” Steve said as he got a little closer to Rachel. “I never actually told anyone, but the same goes for me. I like you, Steve Harrington.” Rachel smiled. “Really? I thought that you found me a douche.” Steve replied as he again got a little closer to Rachel. “At first I did, but after a while things can change.” Rachel smiled. “They sure can change.” Steve replied. “Can I kiss you, Rachel?” Steve added. “Yes, Steve.” Rachel replied as she felt Steve place his hands on her waist and pulled her close to him, before placing his lips on hers. Rachel closed her eyes and placed her arms around his neck, deepening the kiss. After a minute, Rachel and Steve pulled away, both looking in each other’s eyes. “I adore you, Rachel Hopper.” Steve whispered. “I adore you as well, Steve Harrington.” Rachel replied, before taking her arms off his neck. “I’ll see you tomorrow at school.”

Rachel added as she walked towards her car, seeing Steve running his hand through his hair and smirking at her. Rachel got into her car and made her way towards the cabin. When she arrived at the cabin, she parked her car and grabbed the bag of candy, before walking out of the car and towards the cabin. She knocked on the door and waited for El to open the door. “Hey little one.” Rachel smiled as she walked in. “Where’s dad?” Rachel asked as she looked around. “Hasn’t arrived yet.” El replied. “Oh.” Rachel said. “I’m going to get changed into my pajamas and then we’ll enjoy some of the candy I brought.” Rachel smiled. “Okay.” El smiled as Rachel walked into their shared room. The next day, Rachel woke up and got ready for school. She grabbed some jeans, a top and a flannel, before getting changed. She walked out of the room and found her father in the kitchen. “Where were you last night?” Rachel asked her father.

“Work. I forgot the time.” Jim replied as he looked at Rachel. “I’m going to school. I’ll see you later.” Rachel said as she grabbed her

bag, before pulling on her shoes and walked into her bedroom. "El, I'll see you later after school." Rachel said towards the girl, who just woke up. "Okay." El replied as Rachel walked out of the room and out of the cabin. Rachel made her way towards her car and got in, before she started to drive towards school. She drove up the school parking lot and parked her car. She got out of her car and looked around. "Hey sugar. Come here." A guy yelled towards her as she was walking away from her car. Rachel turned around and saw a boy standing by a Chevrolet Camaro. Rachel walked up to him and looked at him. "Are you new?" The boy asked. "No, but you are." Rachel replied. "Yes I am. And I was wondering if you could show me around." The boy smirked.

"I am pretty sure that any other girl could do that. I have a feeling that I am not your type." Rachel replied. "What do you think my type is?" "Hot, dumb and easy to manipulate." Rachel replied. "What's your name?" The boy asked. "Rachel. What's yours?" Rachel asked. "Billy. Billy Hargrove." Billy replied. "Well, Billy, I guess I will see you around." Rachel said as she turned on her heel and started to make her way towards the building. "I'll see you around, Rachel." Billy called after her. Rachel walked towards the building and saw Nancy walking up to her.

"Hey Nanc." Rachel smiled. "Hey. Steve and I broke up." Nancy said. "What?" Rachel asked, secretly happy that they broke up. "Because of what I said last night." Nancy replied. "I'm sorry that it happened, Nanc." Rachel smiled. "Don't worry about it. Our relationship was coming to an end anyway." Nancy replied. "Rachel, is there something that you have to tell me?" Nancy asked as they walked into the school building. "No. Not that I can think of." Rachel replied. Nancy stood in front of Rachel, making the girl look at her. "I saw you last night with Steve." Nancy said. "Oh. Uh." "I'm not mad at you." Nancy assured. "I guess that over the months, I started to have feelings for Steve." Rachel admitted. "I always knew that you kind of had a crush on him, but you never told me." Nancy smiled. "I'm sorry that I never told you." Rachel said. "Don't worry about it. So, are you going to date him?" Nancy asked.

"I don't know. Don't you think that that's a little fast. I mean you just broke up." Rachel replied. "I mean, it's Steve we're talking about." Nancy smiled. "I'll see what Steve does and if he asks, then maybe I

am going to date him.” Rachel replied. During the day, Nancy and Rachel spend some time talking and laughing, until school was over and Rachel stood by her locker. “Hey, Rach, can I talk to you?” Steve asked as he walked up to Rachel’s locker. “Uh, yeah, sure.” Rachel replied as she closed the locker and followed Steve outside. “I guess Nancy already told you that we broke up?” Steve asked. “Yeah, she did.” Rachel replied. “I know that it might be too soon, but I really want to start to date you.” Steve said as he looked at Rachel. Rachel looked at Nancy, who was standing close by. “Uhm, can I talk to Nancy first?” Rachel asked. “Sure, go ahead.” Steve said as he ran a hand through his hair as Rachel walked up to Nancy.

“Do you think it is okay?” Rachel asked. “Rach, yes, I think it is okay. Because honestly, I have feelings for Jonathan.” Nancy replied. “But you really think that it is okay for me to date Steve? You’re not going to be angry at me?” Rachel asked. “No, I am not mad at you. I want to see you happy.” Nancy replied. “You sure?” “Yes.” Nancy smiled. “Okay.” Rachel smiled, before walking towards Steve. “If you ask me nicely.” Rachel smiled. “Ask you what, nicely?” Steve asked, with a smile on his face. “You know what I am talking about.” Rachel replied. “Oh, okay. Rachel, will you be my girl?” Steve asked. “Of course, Steve Harrington.” Rachel smiled as she pulled him towards her and placed her lips on his. “I’ll walk you to your car, doll.” Steve smiled as he took her hand. “See you later, Nanc.” Rachel called after Nancy, who was walking away. “Can I take you on a date, saturday?” Steve asked as they walked up to her car.

“Of course you can, Steve.” Rachel replied with a smile on her face. “Alright, I’ll pick you up at your house, saturday, 7PM?” Steve suggested. “Uhm, can I meet you downtown?” Rachel asked. “I have to work till 6.” Rachel added. “Oh, okay. I’ll pick you up from your work, 6 pm? We’ll go and eat dinner somewhere.” Steve smiled. “Okay. Pick me up at Radio Shack, 6 pm.” Rachel said. “Okay, I’ll see you on Saturday.” Steve said, before he placed a quick kiss on her lips. “See you on Saturday.” Rachel smiled as she got into her car, before smiling at him and driving away. Rachel drove towards the cabin and parked her car in the usual spot, before getting out and walking towards the cabin. She saw that the door was open and that the curtains were open. “El?” Rachel called out as she looked in every room of the cabin. “Dad?” Rachel called out. She walked towards the

phone and dialed the police station.

"Hawkins Police station, how can I help you?" Flo asked as she picked up. "Flo? Is dad there?" Rachel asked. "No, your father isn't here. I haven't seen him all day." Flo replied. "Okay. Thank you." Rachel replied, before hanging up. She looked around the cabin, and realised that her father and El had a fight. The days went by and it was now Saturday. Bob had called Rachel to tell her that she didn't have to work that day, so she let Steve know that she was free all day. Steve said that they were going to walk around town and maybe get some things to eat.

Rachel told him to pick her up at Nancy's house, because she was staying there for a couple days, even though Nancy wasn't there. "Are you excited for your date with Steve?" Karen asked as she looked at Rachel, as she walked into the kitchen, wearing a black flower dress and some black shoes. "Yeah, I think I am." Rachel replied. "Just be your beautiful self and everything will be alright." Karen smiled as Rachel walked towards the front door, since it rang. "Hello, doll." Steve smiled as Rachel opened the door. "Hi." Rachel smiled as she grabbed her bag and walked out of the house. "Steve. I need your help." Dustin said as he walked up to the boy. "With what? I'm kind of busy." "I don't care. I need your help and it is urgent. Do you still have that bat?" Dustin asked. "What bat?" Steve asked, confused. "The one with the nails?" Dustin asked. "Why do I need that?" Steve asked. "Dustin, what's going on?" Rachel asked. "Dart ate my cat." Dustin replied.

"Dart?" Rachel asked. "Yeah, Dart. I thought that it was a rare new species that I discovered, but it turns out that he ate my cat." Dustin replied. "He ate your cat?" Steve and Rachel asked at the same time. "Yes. And I lost it." Dustin replied. "You lost it?" Rachel asked. "Yeah, I lost a demodog." Dustin said as they got into Steve's car. "What the hell is a demodog?" Steve asked. "Demogorgon and dogs put together. Demodog." Dustin proudly said. "Alright, we'll help you." Rachel said as she looked back at Dustin. "Doll, what about our date?" Steve asked. "This could be fun as well." Rachel replied. "Are you dating?" Dustin asked. "Yeah, since Halloween." Steve replied. They pulled up to Steve's house, where Steve quickly ran inside to grab his bat. When he got back to the car, he drove towards Dustin's house and parked his car in the driveway. "Why are we at your



house?" Steve asked.

"Because from here we're going to make a trail, for the demodog to follow." Dustin replied. "Alright." Steve replied. "How do you want to do that?" Rachel asked. "These." Dustin replied as he pointed towards buckets of meat. "How did you get that?" Steve asked. "I don't know." Dustin replied as he picked up a bucket. "Onwards and forwards, people." Dustin said as they started to walk. "I surely wanted to do something different for our first date." Steve said towards Rachel. "I know, Steve. But we're helping a friend. And I am sure that once we find this demodog, we'll have more time to go on dates." Rachel replied. "I have a question that I have been wondering for a long time." Rachel said towards Steve after a while. "What's that, doll?" Steve asked. "How do you get your hair like that?" Rachel asked, making Dustin laugh out loud. "Haha. Very funny, Henderson." Steve said as he rolled his eyes at the boy. "I'm serious, Steve. How do you get your hair like that?"

## **7. Chapter 6: Closing the gate, Drive in Movies and Romance in parents Bedroom**

“It’s uh, Fabergé organics.” Steve said after a while of walking. “Fabergé Organics?” Rachel asked. “Yeah. Fabergé Organics. Use the shampoo and the conditioner. And when your hair is damp, not wet, okay? When it is damp, use four puffs of the uh, Farrah Fawcett hairspray.” Steve answered. “Farrah Fawcett?” Dustin asked as he couldn’t contain his laughter. “Yes. Farrah Fawcett. If you tell anyone about this, your ass is grass, alright, Henderson.” Steve said towards Dustin. “But I didn’t ask you that question. “I know. But we were talking about how you can make a good impression on girls. And you asked for advice.” Rachel replied. “Don’t worry, Steve, we won’t tell a soul.” Rachel smiled as she looked at Steve. “Dustin?” Lucas asked as he walked up to Dustin, with a ginger girl. “Lucas? What are you doing?” Dustin asked. “We were looking for the lab. I told her the truth about what happened last year.” Lucas said. “What?! You told her the truth?!” Dustin said.

“Yeah. I did. But she didn’t believe me.” Lucas replied as the two started to fight. “Are you Rachel?” The girl asked as she looked at Rachel. “Yeah. Who are you?” Rachel asked. “I’m Max.” Max smiled. “Nice to meet you, Max.” Rachel smiled. “This is Steve.” Rachel added. “Hey, I heard about you.” Max smiled. “Only good things I hope.” Steve smiled. “Yeah, sure.” Max replied. “Guys, come on. We’re losing daylight.” Steve said as they started to walk. They made their way towards the junkyard, before they stopped and looked around. “Yeah, this will do.” Steve said as he looked around, before they started to get some things for the bus to hide themselves. “Are you new?” Rachel asked as she looked at Max, while they were getting some metal. “Uh, yeah. I recently moved here with my mother, stepfather and stepbrother.” Max replied. “Who’s your stepbrother?” Rachel asked. “Uhm, Billy.” Max replied. “Billy Hargrove?”

Rachel asked as they walked up to the bus. “Yeah. Player with a curly mullet.” Max replied. “I met him. He’s not my type.” Rachel replied. “You talked with Hargrove?” Steve asked as he looked at Rachel. “Yeah. On thursday.” Rachel replied. “What did he want?” Steve

asked as they got into the bus. "He just asked if I could show him around. But I told him that I wasn't his type, and that I wouldn't do it." Rachel replied. "What is your type?" Max asked as she looked at Rachel. "Me." Steve replied with a smile on his face. "You two are dating?" Lucas asked as he looked down from where he was on top of the bus. "Yeah, we are." Rachel replied as she sat down beside Steve. "Since when?" Max asked. "Since halloween." Steve replied. "You know, Steve, it's actually since thursday." Rachel replied as she looked at him. "But we kissed on Halloween, so, yeah." Steve replied. "Fair enough." Rachel replied.

"Why were you actually staying at Nancy's?" Steve asked. "Because I don't like to be alone in the house, when Dad Isn't around." Rachel replied. "Where is your father?" Steve asked. "I don't know where he is. I haven't seen him since thursday morning." Rachel replied. "So you're staying with Nancy for a while?" Steve asked. "Yeah, but the weird thing is, Nancy isn't there." Rachel replied. "That's weird." Steve said. "I know." Rachel replied. "You know, when all of this is over, I really want to take you on a proper date, without Henderson disturbing us." Steve said as he looked at the curly haired boy. "Hey, I am sorry that I interrupted your romantic rendez-vous. But you were the only one that was available." Dustin replied. "Guys. We've got company. And lots of it." Lucas called down. "Get inside the bus." Rachel said as she grabbed the knife that Steve gave her. "Doll, stay inside the bus and watch them."

Steve said as he grabbed the bat and walked towards the door. "What are you going to do?" Rachel asked as she looked at him. "I'm going to distract them." Steve replied as he walked back to her and placed his lips on her real quick. "Please be careful." Rachel said as she looked at him. "I will, doll." Steve said, before he got out of the bus. "What is he doing?" Lucas asked as they were looking out of the window of the bus. "I don't know." Rachel replied.

"Get him inside, Dustin." Rachel commanded the boy. Rachel stepped away from the window and looked at Steve, who walked inside of the bus. "What's wrong?" Steve asked Rachel. "It was getting too dangerous, Steve." Rachel replied. "Guys." Max said as she heard something on the roof. Max looked up at the roof, just as a demodog looked down and opened its head. Max started to scream and looked scared as Rachel moved her away from the ladder . Steve stood in

front of them, before the demodog looked away and got off of the bus. "What's happening?" Rachel asked as she looked at Steve. "I don't know." Steve replied as they slowly went towards the door. Steve opened it and looked around. "They're going somewhere." Steve replied. "What should we do?" Rachel asked. "I don't know. Maybe we should follow." Steve replied. "I think they are going to the lab." Lucas said. "The lab?" Rachel and Steve asked at the same time.

"Yeah, Will's there. And so is the gate." Dustin replied. They quickly walked away from the junkyard and made their way towards the lab. "Hello?" Someone called out as they were walking to the edge of the forest. "Nancy?" Rachel asked as she saw the girl. "Rachel?" Nancy and Jonathan asked at the same time as the girls ran towards each other. "Oh, thank god that you're safe." Rachel said as she held Nancy tight. "What are you doing?" Nancy asked. "We were helping Dustin with a demogorgon." Rachel replied. "What?!" Nancy asked. "Yeah. It's really difficult to explain. What are you doing here?" Rachel asked as they walked to Jonathan's car. "Something's going on with Will. They're in danger." Jonathan replied as they looked at the building. "Who's in the building?" Rachel asked. "All the doctors and lab workers. Mom, Will, Mike, Hopper, Bob." Jonathan replied. "What?!" Rachel said as she looked scared.

"Dad's there?" Rachel asked. "Yeah." Jonathan replied. "Can't we go inside?" Rachel asked as she walked up to the gate. "The electricity is out." Jonathan replied. They stayed there for a long time, until they saw the lights go on again and heard a car coming towards them. "Open the gate." Rachel yelled towards Dustin and Jonathan. Jim's car drove through the gate and stopped in front of Rachel and Steve. "Get in." Joyce said as Mike opened the car door. "Dad? What happened?" Rachel asked as she looked at Will and then at her father. "I'll explain once we get to Joyce's house." Jim replied as he drove towards Joyce's house. Once Jim pulled up to the Byers house, they got out of the car and walked inside. "Where were you? I was worried about you. You didn't call, or leave a note. I was worried sick." Rachel said towards her father as she looked at him while they were in Joyce's bedroom. "I was helping Joyce." Jim replied.

"That's a lame excuse. You could have left a note to let me know that

you were safe or that you were going to call me.” Rachel spoke. “I know that you’re angry, kid. But I was protecting you.” Jim replied. “From what? Dad, I was worried about you.” Rachel said. “I know, kid. And I am sorry for not letting you know where I was. How’s El?” Jim asked softly. “I don’t know. I haven’t seen her for a couple of days. I don’t know where she is.” Rachel replied. “She ran away?” Jim asked. “I don’t know dad. I didn’t stay at the house, because I don’t like to be on my own.” Rachel replied. “I’m not angry, kid. I know that I should have let you know where I was. But I was helping Joyce with Will. Apparently a shadow thing went inside him and he is a spy.” Jim said as they walked out of the room. “Jonathan said that Bob was with you.” Rachel said as she looked at him. “He was. He uhm, sacrificed himself to get us out of the lab.” Jim replied. “What?” Rachel asked confused.

“Sweety. Bob was killed by those things.” Jocyce said as she looked at Rachel. “What? No. It can’t be true” Rachel said as she looked at Joyce, before she started to cry. “I know, sweetie. But it is. I saw.” “I’m sorry Joyce.” Rachel said as she looked at the woman. After hours, they were talking to Will in the shed. “Close the gate.” Rachel read out after they finished writing the code Will was telling Hopper. “We have to close the gate.” Nancy said as she looked around. Joyce, Jonathan, Mike and Jim ran into the house, because it knew where they were. Jim handed Rachel and Nancy a gun as they heard a demogorgon walking around the house. Soon the demogorgon flew into the house, looking dead and they all turned to look at the door that opened. Rachel, Nancy and Jim pointed the guns at the door, before it opened and El walked inside. Rachel lowered her gun and couldn’t help but let out a tear as she saw the girl. “El?” Mike asked softly. “Mike.” El replied as she walked up to the boy and hugged him. “Who’s that?” Steve asked Rachel softly. “Eleven.” Rachel replied as El and Mike pulled away and Rachel walked up to the girl. “I missed you, El.” Rachel said as they wrapped their arms around each other. “I missed you, Rach.” El replied as she cried in Rachel’s arms. “You’re looking bitchin’.” Rachel said as she pulled away from the hug and looked at Eleven’s outfit. “Bitchin’.”

El smiled before she hugged everyone else. “Where were you?” Jim asked. “Where were you?” El replied as she looked at him as he hugged her. “You’ve been hiding her? You’ve been hiding her this

whole time?" Mike asked as he looked at Jim. "Let's talk, alone." Jim said as he and Mike walked to the room. "Hey, El. Nice to meet you." Steve said as he looked at Eleven who looked confused. "I'm Steve." Steve smiled. "Steve." Eleven said. "Yeah." Steve smiled. "El, Steve and I are dating." Rachel said as she looked at the girl. "Dating?" Eleven asked. "Yes, uhm, in a relationship. I'll tell you another time." Rachel smiled as she grabbed El's hand and walked out of the room for a moment. "Is he the boy you like?" El asked Rachel. "Yes. He is." Rachel replied. "I like Steve. He's nice." El smiled. "I know, he's really nice." Rachel smiled as they walked back in the room. Rachel walked to Steve and held his hand. Jim and Mike walked back in the room.

"El and I are going to the gate." Jim said as he looked at El. "I'm going with you." Rachel said as she looked at Jim. "Rach, stay. It's too dangerous." Jim replied. "No. I am going with you. And that's final." Rachel said as she grabbed a gun and looked at her father. "Okay. Jonathan, take Will to the cabin." Jim said as he walked out of the house followed by Jonathan. "Rach. Please be safe. I don't want to lose you." Steve said as he wrapped his arms around the girl. "I'm with dad. He won't let anything happen to me." Rachel replied as he placed his hands on her cheek. "I love you." Steve said, before he placed his lips on hers. "I love you too, Steve." Rachel said as they pulled away. Rachel and El walked out of the house and got into Hop's car. "I'm sorry, kids. That I wasn't there." Jim said as he drove towards the lab. "It's okay, dad." Rachel said as she looked at her father from the backseat of the car. "This look, El. I like it." Jim said after a while.

"So, Rachel. You're dating Steve Harrington, now." Jim said as he looked at Rachel through the rearview mirror. "Uhm, yes." Rachel replied. "I'm going to interrogate him once everything is over." Jim said as he looked at Rachel. "Yes. I will too." El smiled as they pulled up to the lab. "Okay." Rachel smiled as she got out of the car after Jim parked the car. Rachel, Eleven and Jim walked into the building and Rachel looked at where a dead body was laying. "Is that Bob?" Rachel asked as she looked at her father. "I'm sorry kid." Jim said, before he grabbed her hand pulled her away from the scene, making their way towards the gate. "What the hell happened?" Rachel asked as they were walking down the stairs. "The demogorgons." Jim

replied as they walked down the stairs. "Hey, doc. What happened?" Jim asked as Rachel saw a man on the ground. "The things." The man replied. "Is that your eldest?" The man asked as he saw Rachel.

"Yes. That's Rachel. My oldest." Jim replied as he looked at Rachel. "Nice to meet you, sir." Rachel smiled. "We'll come back for you." Jim said as he tied off the man's wound, before they walked further down the stairs. They arrived at where the gate was and Rachel looked around. "What the fuck is that?" Rachel asked. "The gate." El replied. Rachel looked at her father with a panicked look in her eyes. "It's going to be okay, kid." Jim said as they walked out towards the lift and started to go down. "You good, kid?" Jim asked as he looked at Rachel.

"Yeah. I am okay dad." Rachel said as she prepared her gun as Eleven started to close the gate. "Rachel watch out." Jim said as he saw something climbing against the wall. Rachel starts to open fire and helps her father kill the demogorgons. After a while of shooting Rachel looked over at Eleven, who was floating in the air. "Holy fuck." Rachel mumbled. After a couple of minutes, Eleven closed the gate and Rachel held her close. "You did a good job El." Rachel said as she looked at Eleven. "Good job, Eleven." Jim said as he held the girls close, before they went back up. Weeks went by and Rachel was currently in the car with Steve and Dustin. It was the snowball for the middle schoolers. "You're gonna go in there and knock 'em dead." Steve smiled towards Dustin. "Yeah. Rrrrr." Dustin purred as he looked at Steve. "Don't do that." Rachel smiled as she got out of the backseat and helped Dustin out of the car.

"Good luck, Dustin." Rachel smiled before she got in the front seat of the car and looked at Steve. "They grow up so quickly." Rachel smiled as Steve drove off. "I know. What are we going to do?" Steve asked. "Uhm, go to a movie?" Rachel suggested. "Alright." Steve said as he drove towards the drive in movie theater. Steve bought the tickets for the movie and Rachel bought some candy, popcorn and soda for the two, before they pulled up to the screen and started to watch the movie. "I love you, Rachel Hopper." Steve said after a while. "I love you too, Steve Harrington." Rachel smiled as she turned to look at him. "Come here." Steve said as he placed his hands on her cheeks and pulled her to him. "My parents are out of town. Wanna head back to my house? I don't like this movie." Steve said. "We're half way

through the movie." Rachel replied.

"Do you like this movie?" Steve asked as he looked at the screen. "Alright. Let's go." Rachel said after a while. Steve drove away from the drive in and towards his house. He parked the car in the drive way and they got out of the car. "Let's go up to my room." Steve smiled as they walked into the house and up the stairs. "Steve, I am cold." Rachel said. "My parents have a fireplace in their room. We'll go in their room then." Steve said as he grabbed her hand and walked towards the master bedroom. Rachel stood by the bed, while Steve was turning on the fireplace. "Steve." Rachel said as she made him look at her and she pulled up her shirt, taking it off of her body. In the weeks they had been together, they only made out and touched each other, but they haven't gone further then that. Steve walked up to Rachel and took off his own shirt, before he placed his hands on her waist. "Do you want to do this?" Steve asked as he looked in her eyes.

They talked about it before and Steve knew that she was still a virgin, which he accepted. They were doing everything on their own terms. "Yes." Rachel replied, before she placed her lips on his. Steve pulled away from the kiss, before he took off his pants and helped Rachel with her own. "I love you so much, doll." Steve said as he placed her down on the bed and leaned over her body. "I love you too, baby." Rachel replied as Steve took off his boxers and put on a condom. Rachel closed her eyes as she felt him slowly enter her. Steve's hands went towards Rachel's as he thrustured inside of her. Rachel moaned as she felt the pleasure building up inside of her. "I love you." Rachel moaned as she opened her eyes and looked at Steve. "I love you too, doll. Are you getting close?" Steve asked as she moaned louder. "Yes, Steve." Rachel moaned as she felt herself shake with pleasure. "That's it, doll." Steve said as he looked at her.

Not long after, Steve came and pulled out, before taking off the condom and putting on his boxers. "Thank you, baby." Rachel whispered as Steve pulled the covers over them. Rachel placed her head on his chest. "You're welcome, doll." Steve replied as they fell asleep in each other's arms.



## 8. Chapter 7: Date night cut short

Months went by. Rachel and Steve's relationship was still going strong as before. They often had some fights, but they were never bad. After what happened in the lab, Jim had adopted Eleven and Rachel was happy with it. She was glad that she had a new sister. Rachel also stopped working at RadioShack and started to work in the new store JC Penney in the new mall. It was a very hot summer in '85. Rachel was currently in the kitchen of the cabin, cleaning up the dishes that had been left since the morning. "El, I am going to work." Rachel called out as she opened the bedroom door. "Okay. See you later." El smiled as she woke up and looked at Rachel. "See you later." Rachel smiled as she closed the door again and walked out of the house. Rachel walked to her car and drove towards the mall, where she was going to open the store. But before she walked towards the store, she decided to go to Scoops Ahoy.

Steve started to work there together with her friend Robin. She knocked on the backdoor of Scoops Ahoy and waited for someone to open it. "Good Morning." Rachel smiled as Robin opened the door. "Good Morning, Rach." Robin smiled as the girl walked inside. "Steve, your girl is here." Robin called out to the front. "Hey, doll." Steve smiled as he walked into the back. "Hi, baby." Rachel smiled as she gave him a kiss. "What time are you finished today?" Rachel asked. "Uh around 7." Steve replied. "Dad has to work all day and El is going to Mike's. I was thinking of making dinner." Rachel said. "I'll come by after work. You have to work till 2, right?" Steve asked. "Yeah. I was going to go by Nancy and get some late lunch maybe with her, I don't know yet." Rachel replied. "Yeah, you can do that." Steve answered. "Well, I better go and open up the store otherwise Veronica will yell at me."

Rachel smiled as she gave Steve a quick kiss, before she walked out and towards JCPenney. The day went by quickly and before Rachel knew it, it was already 2. Rachel walked to the back to get her stuff, before she walked out, said her goodbyes to her colleagues and made her way out of the shopping mall. Once she walked up to her car, she got in and drove towards the place Nancy worked at with Jonathan. Rachel parked her car and got out, before she looked in her car

window. She was wearing a white dress and had her hair up in a bun. This year it was a heat wave in Hawkins, so Rachel did everything she could to stay cool. She smiled at some people that walked by, before she walked into the Hawkins Post. "Hello?" A woman asked as he looked at Rachel. "Hi, uhm I was wondering where Nancy is." Rachel smiled. "I'll lead you to her." The woman smiled as she got up and walked to the door for Rachel to walk inside.

"Are you a friend?" The woman asked as she and Rachel walked towards where Nancy had her own small desk. "Yeah, we've been friends for many years." Rachel replied. "Nancy, your friend is here for you." The woman smiled as Nancy looked up. "Rach. What are you doing here?" Nancy asked as she stood up and gave the girl a hug. "I was wondering if you would like to have lunch with me." Rachel smiled. "I have to ask my boss." Nancy replied. "I'll come with you." Rachel smiled as Nancy walked away from her desk. "How are you?" Nancy asked. "Good. Busy at the store. How are you?" Rachel asked. "I'm alright. Busy here at the post." Nancy smiled as they walked up to the meeting room. Nancy knocked on the door and walked in, looking at a man with greyish hair. "Mr Holloway, is it alright if I grab lunch with my friend?" Nancy asked as she looked at Rachel. "Alright. Be back around 3." The man replied as he looked at Rachel.

"Thank you." Nancy smiled as she walked out of the room and back to her desk. "They look like dicks." Rachel said as she looked back at the meeting room. "They are dicks." Nancy replied as they walked out of the building and towards a diner. "How are you and Steve doing?" Nancy asked Rachel as they walked into the diner and sat down at the table by the window. "We're doing alright. Sometimes we get into small arguments, but I guess that that's normal." Rachel replied. "Yeah, that is normal. Jonathan and I get into those arguments as well." Nancy smiled. "How's El?"

Nancy asked. "She's doing alright. Most of the time she's with Mike. Dad's starting to dislike how much they are spending time together. But I told him that it is normal. He did ask them to leave the bedroom door open three inches." Rachel smiled. "He's just scared that she's growing up too quickly." Nancy smiled. "As long as he doesn't do that with me and Steve that is fine for me." Rachel replied as they ate their food. "Do you want me to drop you off at work?"

Rachel asked as she and Nancy walked out of the diner. "Sure." Nancy smiled. They walked back to the Hawkins Post. "Rach, what are you doing here?" Jonathan asked as he saw Rachel by Nancy's desk. "I took Nancy out for lunch." Rachel replied. "How are you and Harrington doing?" Jonathan asked. "We're doing alright. Still going strong." Rachel smiled. "That's good." Jonathan smiled. "How are you?" Rachel asked Jonathan. "I'm doing just fine. Busy here with pictures and stuff."

Jonathan replied. "That go-" "It is nice to know that you three are good friends and that you are catching up. But I would appreciate it if you do that outside of work." Mr. Holloway said as he walked up to Nancy's desk. "I am sorry, sir. It is my fault." Rachel said as she looked at the man. "I would like for my workers to work in peace, so I want you to leave." He said as he glared at Rachel. "Alright, sorry. I will see you again sometime." Rachel said to Nancy, before she walked out of the building and to her car. Before she decided to go home, Rachel decided to pay Joyce a visit and ask her how she could prepare dinner for her and Steve. Rachel walked towards Melvald's and walked inside. "Hey Rachel. How are you?" Joyce smiled as she looked at Rachel. "Good. I have a question." Rachel said. "Alright, what is it?" Joyce asked. "Dad has to work late and El's going to Mike. So I asked Steve to come over and have dinner with me."

"But I only know how to make scrambled eggs and Eggos and Macaroni with cheese, or you know, the easy things. Do you have something that is easy to make?" Rachel asked the woman. "You know what. I am about to finish here at work. I will go to the store and come to the cabin. I will help you make a casserole and brownie with Ice cream." Joyce smiled. "Really? Do you want to help me?" Rachel asked. "Yes, of course I do. When does Steve get off at work?" "He's finished at 7." Rachel replied. "That gives us plenty of time to cook the casserole, bake the brownies and set the table." Joyce smiled. "Thank you, Joyce." Rachel smiled. "You are welcome, sweetie. So go ahead and get home. I will come to you once I am finished here and go to the store." Joyce smiled. "Okay. I will see you soon." Rachel smiled as she walked out of the store. She walked to her car and got inside, driving towards the cabin.

Once she arrived at the cabin, she walked into the house and saw El

and Mike in their room. "El? I thought you were going to Mike?" Rachel asked as she walked to the door. "We are, but I came here to pick her up." Mike replied. "Are you going to stay with him till after dinner?" Rachel asked. "Yes. Why are you acting weird?" El asked. "I'm not acting weird. What makes you think that?" Rachel asked. "I know what is going on. You and Steve are going to have dinner together." Mike said while wiggling his eyebrows. "Yes, he is going to come over for dinner." Rachel replied. "We'll go to my house. So that you have enough time to get ready and make the food." Mike smiled. "You can stay here for some time. He's going to come around 7. And Joyce is going to help me make dinner." Rachel smiled. "Okay." El answered. After an hour, Joyce arrived at the cabin and started to help Rachel cook dinner and bake the brownies.

"Rach, El and I are leaving. I'll drop her off around 10." Mike said as they walked into the living room. "Okay. Have fun." Rachel smiled as she looked at them. It was starting to get closer to 7. Rachel and Joyce just finished up the casserole and the brownies were cooling in the fridge. "Have fun with Steve. And let me know how it went." Joyce smiled as she looked at Rachel. "Of course. Thank you so much for the help." Rachel smiled. "No problem. Have fun." Joyce smiled before she walked out of the cabin.

Rachel walked to her room and got changed into a black dress with thin straps. There was a knock on the cabin door and Rachel walked out her room. She walked to the front door and opened it, smiling when she saw her boyfriend wearing normal clothes. "You went home to change?" Rachel asked. "Robin told me to go home around 6.30. So I went home and changed." Steve smiled as he walked into the cabin and placed his hands on Rachel's waist. "You are looking beautiful, doll." Steve said as he leaned down, before he placed his lips on hers. Rachel wrapped her arms around his neck and pulled him closer to her. After a while, she pulled away and smiled up at him. "How was work today?" She asked. "Busy. A lot of people wanted ice cream today." Steve replied. "What are we eating tonight?" Steve asked. "Well, uh, Joyce and I made a chicken casserole." Rachel replied. "Joyce? Mrs Byers?" Steve asked. "Yes. She uh, helped me cook."

Rachel replied as she looked down at her hands. "That's okay, doll." Steve smiled. They sat down at the table and Rachel placed the dish on the table once it was finished. "It smells really good, doll." Steve

said as he looked at Rachel, while she gave him some food. "Thank you, baby." Rachel smiled. After a while, they ate the food and talked. "It's really good, doll." Steve said as he looked at Rachel. "I hope you still have some hunger. Joyce and I made brownies." Rachel smiled as she cleared off the table. "Doll, come, let's sit down for a moment. Dessert can wait." Steve said as he walked over to where Rachel was standing and grabbed her hand. He led her towards the couch and sat down. "I love you, doll." Steve whispered as he started to place kisses on her neck. "I love you too, baby." Rachel replied as she turned to look at him and placed her lips on his. She got closer to him and moved to sit on his lap. She started to slowly grind against him.

"I need you, baby." Rachel whispered. "Stand up, doll." Steve said as he looked at her. He took off his pants. "Do you have a condom?" Steve asked as he looked at Rachel. "Uh, wait here." Rachel replied as she ran to her room. She grabbed a condom and walked back to where Steve was. She gave him the packet and lifted up her dress to take off her panties. Steve placed the condom around himself and grabbed Rachel's hips. "Sit down, doll." Steve said as he helped her sink down on top of him. "Oh, fuck." Rachel moaned as she closed her eyes. "Oh, doll, you feel so good." Steve said as she started to move. "Fuck, doll." Steve said as he looked at her, while she was moaning and bouncing on top of him. "I'm close, baby." Rachel said after a while. She opened her eyes and leaned down to place a kiss on his lips. "Come for me, doll." Steve said in the kiss. Not long after, she came around him and moaned his name loudly.

Not long after, Steve came as well and helped Rachel off of his lap. "I love you, doll." Steve said as he took off the condom and pulled up his pants. "I love you too, baby." Rachel smiled as she stood up and grabbed her panties from the floor, before she walked to the bathroom. She cleaned herself a little, before she walked back out. "Would you like to have the brownies now?" Rachel asked. "Yes, doll." Steve replied as he stood up and walked back to the table. "Oh. What's going on here?" Jim asked as he walked into the cabin. "I made dinner for me and Steve. I thought that you wouldn't be home until really late and El's at Mike." Rachel replied. "I'll go home, doll." Steve said as he looked at Rachel and got up, before walking to the front door. "You don't have to go." Rachel spoke as she followed him.

"I know, doll. But I don't think your dad would like that." Steve replied. "Recently he hasn't been liking a lot of things." Rachel replied.

"He's not even happy with Mike and El's relationship." Rachel added. "I will see you tomorrow, okay doll? After work." Steve said as he leaned closer and placed his lips on hers. "Okay. I love you." Rachel said as she pulled away. "I love you too, doll. I'll see you tomorrow." Steve smiled before he walked away. "You and I need to have a little talk." Jim said as Rachel walked back into the house and looked at her father.